

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

An Examiner interview took place on May 22, 2007, in which Applicants explained that Prager merely discusses a system in which a system manager enters or edits templates in a central configuration database to be distributed to a plurality of subscribers' systems. In each of the plurality of subscribers' systems, a subscriber editor may update the received template.

In contrast, the present invention is characterized by first and second administrators within the management system capable of entering or editing a setting template and entering or editing application rules, respectively. Thereafter, an application rule is selected corresponding to an attribute of a destination communication entity, and the appropriate setting template (specified by the application rule) is read and distributed to the destination communication entity.

Applicants agreed to amend the independent claims, as amended herein, to clarify that the application rule is selected from the application rule storing unit in accordance with an attribute of a corresponding destination communication entity, after the entering or editing the application rules by the second administrator.

In response, the Examiner stated that the proposed claim amendments may overcome the prior art rejections; however, further consideration and/or search will be required.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On pages 2-5 of the Action, claims 1-3 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gai (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,445) in view of Prager (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,918).

Specifically, the Examiner notes that Gai fails to teach or suggest more than one administrator being able to perform separate function. Thus, Prager is cited as disclosing this feature.

Prager merely discusses a system in which a system manager enters or edits templates in a central configuration database to be distributed to a plurality of subscribers' systems. In each of the plurality of subscribers' systems, a subscriber editor may update the received template.

In contrast, the present invention is characterized by first and second administrators within the management system capable of entering or editing a setting template and entering or editing application rules, respectively. *Thereafter*, an application rule is selected corresponding to an attribute of a destination communication entity, and the appropriate setting template (specified by the application rule) is read and distributed to the destination communication entity.

In the Response to Arguments, on pages 5-6 of the Action, the Examiner maintains that the claims appear to only imply that one administrator can work on one part of the template process while another administrator can work on a second part.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended herein to further clarify that the retrieval and response function unit selects an application rule from the application rule storing unit in accordance with an attribute of a corresponding destination communication entity after the entering or editing the application rules by the second administrator.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments to the independent claims clarify that embodiments of the present invention are directed to a communication setting management system distributing communication characteristics to a plurality of communication entities after the first administrator (upper administrator) and the second administrator (standard administrator) complete their assigned tasks. That is, the present invention is not limited to merely transmitting a template to a distributed system's administrator who can further tailor the specific template, to which it has access, to correspond with the local terminal, as discussed by Prager.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7, as well as the pending dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Serial No. 09/853,782

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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